



Andy Fritz, W.L. Western; Scott Martin, Salem; Jed Kramer, Thurston



Ryan Carriere, Stevenson; Sean Rock, W.L. Central; Chris Brown, Churchill



Travis Ilacqua, W.L. Western; Jason Krueger, Redford CC; Ken Meinschein, Franklin coach

Shamrocks place 5 on Observer squad

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Gary Devine, 140, Farmington Hills Harrison: The W.L.A.A. champion also placed second at the West Bloomfield Invitational and took second in both the Class B district and regional. A two-time state qualifier, Devine also earned a spot last fall on the All-Observer football team.

"Gary is not only an outstanding athlete, but an excellent student as well," Harrison coach Daniel Harrison said. "Gary is a three-sport varsity standout at Harrison and carries a 3.1 GPA. He's an excellent young man for not only his athletic achievements, but in the way he conducts himself off the field. He is a good person to have on the team."

Travis Ilacqua, 145, Walled Lake Western: Ilacqua had a banner senior year, earning first-team All-WLAA after the packed first year at 133 and having first in the South Lyon West District and C.O. position in the National All-American tournament.

"He has got a tremendous ability and has some real potential," coach Ken Meinschein said.

Chris Kresl, 152, Farmington Hills: Kresl was selected to the WLAA first team and was named MVP by the coaches. He made his first appearance in the first round of the tournament, the first round of the tournament, the first round of the tournament.

"Chris has a great ability to play the game and is a real team player," coach Ken Meinschein said.

all-area wrestling

The style, technique and ability to be a wrestler is a valuable asset.

Jason Krueger, 160, Catholic Central: Krueger has earned a spot on the WLAA team, including the Class A district and regional. With a 3.0 GPA and a 3.0 GPA, he is a three-sport varsity standout at Catholic Central and carries a 3.0 GPA.

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continuation for the state title next year, Rodriguez said.

Todd Lytwyniuk, 169, Farmington Hills Harrison: A Class B state qualifier, Lytwyniuk won the WLAA meet, 1990, and was named to the Class B district. The senior placed fourth at the regional.

Continuing from 1989, 174 pounds and 174 pounds, he has won the WLAA meet, 1990, and was named to the Class B district. The senior placed fourth at the regional.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Ken Meinschein, Franklin: Meinschein has been named the Coach of the Year by the WLAA. He has coached the team for three years and has a record of 10-1-1.

"Ken has a great ability to coach and is a real team player," coach Ken Meinschein said.

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Belleville's regional victory eliminates Chiefs

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

The book was closed on another Overland boys basketball season Friday when the last surviving team, Plymouth Canton, lost to Belleville in the final of the Wyandotte regional tournament, 72-53.

The Chiefs, who had never been that far in the tournament, played well in certain respects and made a game of it for a while. But the Belleville defense, which forced Canton into 30 turnovers, was the deciding factor.

The No. 7-rated Tigers (24-1) claimed their first regional championship and will play a quarterfinal game Wednesday in Jackson. Belleville's only previous appearance in a regional final ended with a loss to eventual state champion Romulus in 1986.

Canton was minus two of its usual starters, sophomore guard Mike Stafford and senior forward Kevin Holmes.

Stafford had another obligation, and Holmes suffered a broken hip in a car accident Friday morning. The 6-foot-4 Holmes, who had to be hospitalized, missed Tuesday's game with a sprained ankle but had been expected to play Friday.

"I THOUGHT we did a good job under the circumstances," Canton coach Dave Van Wagoner said. "Our guys tried as hard as they could. I think we represented Plymouth Canton and Overland well."

"After we have a couple days to look back on it, I think we'll realize what a great season we had. We lost four great seniors, but I'd like to think we've established something we can carry into next year."

Junior guard Derrick McDonald scored 20 points, which included three triples, to lead the Chiefs. Brett Howell and Ila Heard, a 6-4

junior who came off the bench to give a solid effort at both ends of the court when Canton needed help, added 10 apiece.

Ila did a heckuva job, and we feel he's going to be a heckuva player if he works at it," Van Wagoner said. "He's been doing that in practice, and tonight he stepped up and did it in a game."

Belleville was led by Ron Hunter and Derrick Boles with 22 and 21 points, respectively. Nine players scored for the Tigers, but no one else had more than seven. In addition to the 6-5 Hunter and 6-6 Boles, Belleville started 6-7 Tyrone Hicks up front.

The Tigers slowly built a 14-2 lead while Canton committed 12 turnovers in the first quarter.

BELLEVILLE's full-court press didn't bother the Chiefs as much as its half-court defense. Canton used an effective press breaker but was vulnerable to the Tigers' quickness and made most of its turnovers after crossing the time line.

"Belleville's pressure defense does

that to you," Van Wagoner said. "It's a relentless defense. For the most part, I thought we did well, but they got some spurts that just put us out of our game."

"I think their quickness took control of the game. Their defensive pressure took us out of anything we wanted to run all night."

Playing good half-court defense of its own and rebounding extremely well on defense, the Chiefs used that and had first-half shooting by the Tigers -- 11-of-35 compared to 8-of-17 by Canton -- to stay close.

Canton closed to 14-7 at the end of the first period and got within 20-19 in the second behind the scoring of Derrick McDonald, who had 13 points in the first half, and the rebounding of Tony Goshart and Bob Wilson.

"We were up 10-2 but the momentum of the game was not what we wanted," Belleville coach Mike Garland said. "Our kids kept walking the ball up. Once we got them into a transition game, we were able to make some baskets."

"I was pretty confident we'd be

able to turn things around, but I'm human. I was quite frightened by the pattern of the game."

WITH THE Chiefs trailing 24-14 late in the second quarter, a pivotal series of events occurred.

Canton made back-to-back turnovers, which allowed the Tigers to create an up tempo. Nathaniel Griffin's basket was followed by Ron Hunter's free throws, the result of an intentional foul on Howell. Van Wagoner became enraged at the call and protested vehemently but to no avail.

"The Tigers stretched the lead to 32-23 and Van Wagoner, still hot about the earlier call, was given a

technical. Senior guard Karl Wukie was assessed a technical foul simultaneously, too.

Lanton Macklin sank all four free throws, and Belleville turned a four-point game into a 14-point difference with 1:05 remaining. The Tigers led 37-25 at halftime.

"There comes a point in time when a coach has to stand up, and I thought that was the point in time I needed to do that," said Van Wagoner, who received his first technical of the season.

I felt good only being down 12 at halftime. We came here to win, and we felt we could stay with them and maybe pull it out at the end.

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